(c) the quantity of the bio-diesel being produced at present alongwith the locations thereof; and

(d) the extent of foreign dependence to be reduced with respect to diesel after the use of bio-diesel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the National Mission on Bio-diesel has been submitted by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Planning Commission which, *inter-alia,* envisages a Demonstration Project involving plantation of Jatropha over 4 lakh hectare on degraded forest and non-forest lands.

(c) There is no production of bio-diesel in commercial quantities of much significance in India. As of now, the bio-diesel is being produced and supplied to oil companies for trials in diesel locomotives and roadways buses by two companies, namely, Gujarat Oleo Chemicals Limited, Ankleshwar and Lubrizol India Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai. The production of bio-diesel by these companies is based on the work orders placed on them by the oil companies. There are few Academic and R&D Institutes, e.g., Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Punjab Agricultural University, Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute etc. who are producing bio-diesel on a pilot scale and for R&D purposes.

(d) Though we meet a sizeable portion of our crude oil requirements through imports, we are a next exporter of diesel. As such, there is no direct implication of foreign exchange being saved by mixing bio-diesel with diesel. However, by exporting the diesel that could be substituted by bio-diesel, foreign exchange of proportionate value can be earned.

**Status of CNG outlets in the country**

695. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CNG outlets which have been opened in the country during the 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise, till date;

(b) the number of CNG outlets opened particularly in Mumbai and Amritsar, till date; and

(c) what is the time limit for opening CNG outlets in Mumbai and Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details of CNG stations opened by GAIL/Joint Venture Companies of GAIL are as follows:—

**CNG Stations (Nos.)**

| City | During 2004-05 | During 2005-06 (till date) | Cumulative Till date |
|---|---|---|---|
| Delhi | 12 | 05 | 137 |
| NOIDA | 02 | 0 | 02 |
| Vijaywada | 03 | 03 | 03 |
| Vadodara | 01 | 01 | 03 (1 in Vaghodia) |
| Mumbai | 30 | 10 | 115 |

Apart from the above, a few CNG stations have been opened by private entities in a few cities in Gujarat. At present, there is no CNG outlet in Amritsar.

(c) GAIL's Joint Venture Company, Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), has already opened 115 CNG stations in Mumbai. The opening of CNG outlets in Amritsar is not planned at present due to non-availability of gas and pipeline infrastructure.

**Completion of Indo-lran gas pipeline project**

†696. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the date of Indo-lran agreement regarding import of gas from Iran;

(b) by when the target for completing the work of laying gas pipeline would be achieved;

(c) whether concerned countries have given their consent to lay the said gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the present status of Indo-lran agreement regarding import of gas?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.